



The Guardian

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Seattle Needs More Police Officers

By Timothy Burgess

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The tragic deaths of four local police officers in the past 123 days — King County Sheriff’s Deputy Steve Cox, Brier Officer Edwanton Thomas, and Seattle Officers Joselito Barber and Beth Nowak — bring the dangers of police work into razor-sharp focus.

Police officers work hard and expose themselves to great risks. In exchange, they deserve our appreciation and support. They particularly deserve the support of our elected officials in the form of appropriate compensation, proper equipment and adequate staffing that will lessen their risks and reduce crime.

In Seattle, at least, city officials have finally noticed that police staffing levels are too low — something patrol officers, prosecutors, local business owners and neighborhood crime councils have known for years.

But rather than implement a strong and focused strategy to correct decades of police-staffing neglect, the City Council tried to please everyone. The city’s budget for the next two years includes the hiring of just 31 new officers. About half of the new funds available for public safety were earmarked not for additional police officers, but for social services, civilian police assistants and legal services.

While such services certainly have value, the council would have been wiser to invest all of the funds in new officers, a move that would jump-start the rebuilding of our city’s police force. To reach parity with comparable cities, Seattle needs to hire just over 200 new officers.

Why are more officers needed? Consider these sobering facts:

- Our patrol officers’ workloads are extremely heavy. This not only endangers them as they rush from one incident to the next but leaves little time for the grassroots investigations and community liaisons at which they excel.

- Large sections of our city can be left with little to no police coverage. Want proof? Just ask your neighbor or friend who’s been the victim of an auto theft, vandalism, burglary or other “low-priority” crime. Or ask an officer who just might be working two or even three patrol districts because his shift is understaffed. Wait time for an officer can be excruciatingly long, and it’s not the officer’s fault; blame rests squarely with city elected officials.

- Overworked detectives are unable to keep up with evidence-gathering and paperwork to support the filing of criminal charges. Thus, cases receive priority only if they involve violent crimes or suspects in custody; most others wait. The death of Officer Nowak on Nov. 13 is a tragic example of how such delays can have devastating consequences. A career criminal, on the street because his latest brush with the law was flagged as low priority, smashed into the officer’s car with a stolen vehicle, killing her. Had he been in jail where he belonged, Officer Nowak would still be with us.

- Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske believes our city’s police staffing should be equivalent to those of other cities — such as Boston, Charlotte, Denver, Nashville and San Francisco — that have comparable public-safety challenges, including tourism, a robust entertainment industry, professional sports and a sizable commuter population.

Violent crime in Seattle is the lowest among the cities listed above, although it increased 8.2 percent in 2005 and will be up again this year. Our property-crime rate, on the other hand, is the highest. As a result, Seattle has the highest overall rate of serious crime, the highest rate of serious crime per police officer, and the lowest rate of police officer deployment.

To match the average per-capita officer deployment of the cities mentioned, Seattle would need a net gain of 219 police officers (based on 2005 numbers). And this increase can’t come soon enough.

As one criminal-justice official remarked recently, Seattle police are “barely hanging on.”

As a vibrant international gateway city with a large and growing population, Seattle will face public-safety issues for many years. It’s true that we face other serious challenges, including transportation and education. But if we don’t begin paying closer attention to public-safety services, our quality of life increasingly will be threatened.

Strong, focused and strategic leadership is needed from our mayor and City Council. Adequate funding and staffing of Seattle’s Police Department is a priority we dare not continue to overlook. Continuing to squeeze services from understaffed police ranks is a disservice to the women and men who serve us so diligently throughout the city.

Timothy Burgess is the former chair of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, a former Seattle police detective, and past chair of the Queen Anne Community Council. He can be reached at timothy_burgess@msn.com

King County Deputy Sherriff
Steven Cox

End Of Watch: December 2, 2006
Gone But Not Forgotten

IN THIS ISSUE...

4

Letters to the Editor

6

Legal Recap

9

Out of the Blue

You'll Also Find:

President's Message 2

History Corner.....3

Mister Safety 5

Officer of the Month.....5

System of a Clown.....6

The Struggle to Juggle.....7

Retired News 10

Editors Notes.....12



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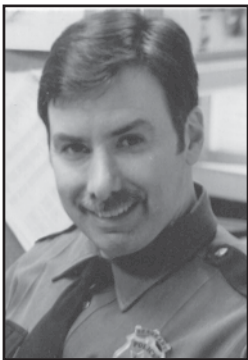
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



Happy New Year! If you are like me, it will be almost February and I'll still be writing "06" for the date. The start of a new year always affords us the opportunity to begin again and to start anew in all areas of our lives. We stare at a fresh calendar and wonder where we will be when we tear off the last page twelve months from now. So I thought, for this month, I would discuss some of the hopes and aspirations of SPOG as well as some of the projects that we will be facing as an organization.

As you read this, the SPOG elections will be underway. Please carefully consider each vote that you cast. If there are uncontested races, at least read the candidate's message. That way you will become better informed about the people who run this organization. Board members devote a lot of their time and energy to SPOG. Without them, we would not function! They get involved because they want to make a difference. They all want to improve the benefits and working conditions for everyone in this labor union. I understand that not everyone can get involved with SPOG activities. Family life, work, off-duty, and coaching, can all pull us in different directions. Perhaps at some time in your career you will have more time and you will decide to get involved with SPOG and to give back to the organization that has fought for every benefit that we now enjoy. Until that time arrives, take a moment to thank your SPOG board members for their involvement. They are working for you and your family!

By the end of January the election results will be in. The SPOG board will meet to set goals for the upcoming year. The #1 priority will be the ongoing contract negotiations. As you read this, we will be working under an expired contract. Mayor Nickels and members of the City Council have all informed me that the last contract negotiations went way too long and they do not want us without a contract for two years. It is my hope, that the mayor passes that message on to those who represent the city at the bargaining table. Seattle Police Officers need to be rewarded for being the only "Nationally Accredited Agency" amongst our comparables. They also need to be rewarded for protecting and serving the citizens of this city with dangerously low staffing. A good contract proposal will also make SPD more competitive in its ability to attract new officer candidates. I hope that the mediation process will be productive and sometime in '07 we will be voting on a new contract.

SPOG will also be hard at work establishing a PAC fund! This was unanimously approved by the board and it is long overdue. Campaign laws insist that contributions are voluntary and so the SPOG board members will be meeting individually with each and every member to solicit your support. Without your cooperation this important effort will fail. The Seattle Fire Union has been a leader in the local political arena. Like them, we need to become more of a voice in local politics and that is where the PAC funds will be used. Ballot initiatives, billboards, commercials, and full page ads cost a lot of money. If we want to take our message to the people, then we need to support the PAC effort!

Speaking of "the people," SPOG will continue in 2007 to keep the staffing issue front and center. We have already succeeded in that the public debate is not "if" we need more officers, but rather "how many." The community groups that I speak to are all in agreement on this issue. They do not want a "band-aid" approach like the one offered in the last city budget. They also do not want a "shuffle the bodies around" approach. It is my hope that the elected officials will listen to these citizens and give them a police department which will be properly staffed. It basically will come down to this: The politicians will either listen to the voters or they will be looking for work. It is a matter of safety for us and for the citizens we serve.

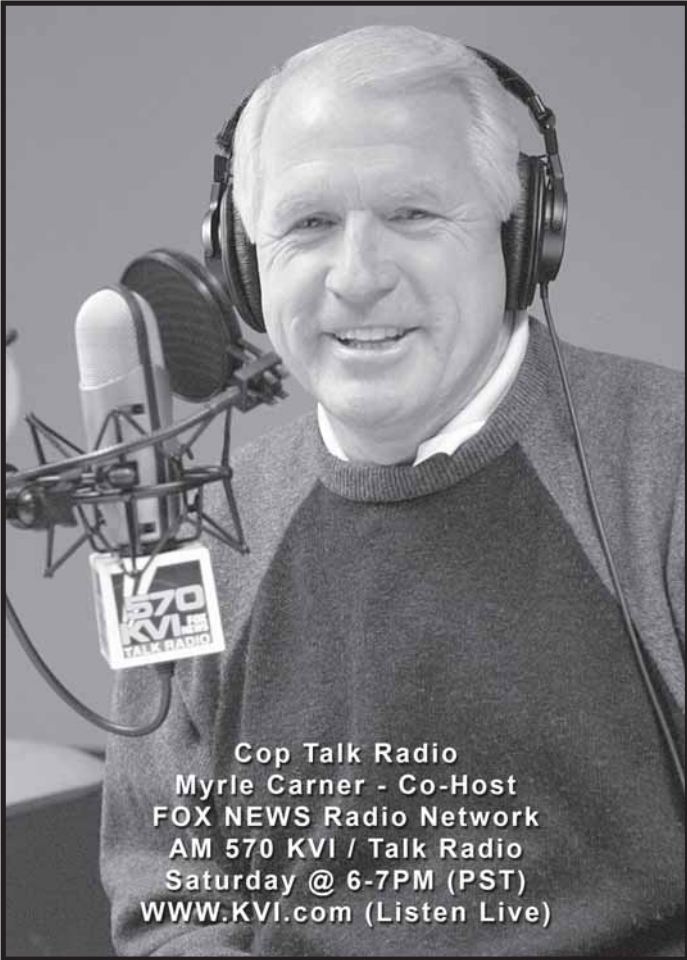
In a few months the SPOG board will begin working on creating a budget for the next fiscal year. This is the process

where we look at our income from dues, investments and fund raising, and make critical spending decisions for the organization. The board will also begin tackling the issue of our LTD rebate funds which are being held in a legally required trust. These funds are mandated by law to be used only for "member benefits." They can not be used for the general operating expenses of the union. If you have an expertise in financial matters or if you just have some ideas for "member benefits" that you would like to see in the future, please contact a board member and share your opinion.

In 2007, Mayor Nickels will appoint and the City Council will be asked to ratify a new OPA Director. I have expressed to all of them my hope that the new director will be someone who is viewed as fair and neutral. We do not need someone who enters the position with an "agenda" or with pre-conceived ideas about police misconduct. We also do not need someone who wants to "reinvent the system" by expanding the roles of all involved. Civilian oversight is here to stay. The new director does not need to "generate numbers" to justify their budgeted position. Reasonableness and common sense needs to be restored to the decision making on OPA matters. More cases should be sent to mediation or down to the front line supervisors to handle. OPA-IS should be reserved for serious acts of misconduct. While I am on this topic, I hope that in this new year, supervisors will accept their role and duties more seriously and stop using the OPA system to handle their own personnel matters. OPA is not the place for job performance issues! Don't place an officer on "your radar" and send every one of their miscues to OPA. Whatever happened to supervisors who had "closed door sessions" with their troops? Turning someone in to OPA should be reserved for serious misconduct. Doing it for any other reason, shows a real lack of leadership!

As you can see there are many things on our plate in the upcoming year. We will continue to work on fostering a good working relationship and improved communication with management, the elected officials, the press, and the public. We want to continue to dialogue with management so that we can avoid unnecessary grievances, legal actions, and unfair labor practices. I think it is more effective to operate in that fashion and reserve the formal proceedings for the serious matters where a compromise could not be reached.

My biggest hope for 2007 is that the roll of black tape that we put on our badges is left untouched for the entire year. Always be safe. No issue is more important than that!



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History Corner

By The Guardian Staff

This is a reprint of the Presidents Message from the January 1997 *Guardian* by then President Mike Edwards.

Merry X-mas and Happy New Year to you and yours!! Very soon now 1996 will begin fading in memory as the prospects of 1997 loom large on the horizon. One of the most significant and important events of our time is about to begin. On January 6, 1997 the Seattle Police Department will begin a new chapter in its history. For the first time in over 20 years patrol officers will not report to work for a 6/2 shift. A tremendous amount of time, sweat and emotion has gone into this effort.

From Chief Stamper down the message has been loud and clear it is time to try something better. Members of the Guild have worked tirelessly on this project all these years ever hopeful of success. The resistance by the City and the department in the past has been replaced by enthusiasm over doing something beneficial for us. There are high hopes and high expectations that this new shift will be all that we want it to be and more. The Guild and the department have done all that they can do and now it is up to you.

To say that the fate of these shifts is in our hands is an understatement. Each of us has an integral part to play to make these new shifts successful. Not the least is maintaining the positive attitude we have had in looking forward to them. We need to

carry this upward momentum to make these shifts work not only for ourselves but for the department and the City. Everyone involved in this project has an investment in its success but the greatest impact on that investment will be made by the membership.

No one has ever said these shifts will be perfect from the start. We all hope that they will be the best they can be but we need to remain flexible to some change. As we transition to working the new schedule each of us may become aware of ways to make improvements. Keep an open mind to any changes that may come up. We have asked for this same commitment from the department. It may be that we will need to tweak things a little as we go along. Any changes will be within the structure of the original MOA. Be assured that the Guild and the department are committed to make these shifts work and any changes will be approached from that perspective.

In the long run it is my hope and that of the Guild leadership to be able to declare the shifts an overwhelming success. With the right attitude and effort we will be able to do so. All that can be done has been done. Take this monumental accomplishment that has come with the highest level of effort, commitment and sacrifice. It is now up to you. I look forward to entering this new era with you. Allow me to commend you in advance. Congratulations and good luck.

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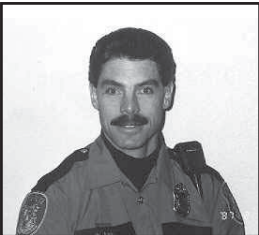
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Congratulations to **Amber and Russell McLeod** on the birth of their son **Conner Jake McLeod** born on November 24, 2006.
He weighed in at 8lbs 10oz and was 21 inches long



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The recent articles recalled in the “History Corner” by John Sullivan and Dick Rovig were excellent. The work done over the years by these two past presidents and many other past Guild officers made the Guild what it is today. The wisdom and leadership that these old timers expressed in their writing was amazing. Neither aspired to anything higher than Detective but they were always in the forefront of improving working conditions for the troops. Thanks for the memories; hopefully the historic perspective will benefit today’s officers.

-Don Matthews, SPD Retired

Dear Editor,

In the wake of Zsolt’s cowardly assault in Post Alley I understand the spirit in which you called for a boycott of Kell’s Restaurant after that establishment refused to post flyers relating to the event in their window. However I have serious reservations about police officers attempting to punish a business for failing to comply with our agenda. Kell’s, like any other business, has a right to decline our request to post these flyers without the fear of reprisal.

The McAleese family immigrated to this country from Ireland and they have worked tirelessly to establish Kell’s as a restaurant and bar that provides a unique slice of our culture for all to enjoy. Seattle cops are especially welcomed to drop by, and on any given night you will be sure to find a colleague or two shooting the breeze with the owner Joe or his son Patrick.

Whenever a fellow officer falls victim of a crime it is understandable that we want to leave no stone unturned in bringing the culprit to justice and no one can fault us for that. However we must consider the rights of those who have no involvement in the crime and for whatever reason do not wish to become involved. They have that privilege and we, as police officers must respect that right.

Now Ron, I think you still owe me a pint or two from a few years back and I’m not getting any younger! So why don’t you give me a call some fine afternoon and we’ll take a walk down to Kell’s and see if we can’t sort this auld thing out over a couple of Guinness. And before we leave I’m sure we’ll have this old Iraq thing and that global warming business solved as well!

Your friend and colleague,

Sam Hurst

Mister Safety’s Helpful Hints

By Officer John Abraham, Safety Officer, Sergeant at Arms

Hi Gang,

With winter here, only a few inches of snow can bring Seattle to its knees, so I thought a couple of driving safety tips might be in order.

First and the most important- DO NOT FOLLOW TOO CLOSE!!!! Give yourself lots of room between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Second-remember to drive for yourself, the vehicle in front of you (leaving room and watching the vehicles actions) and the vehicle behind you. By leaving lots of room between you and the vehicle in front of you can pull ahead if you see that the vehicle behind you isn’t coming to a stop behind you.

Third-make sure that your vehicle is ready for the snow. Check all your lights, the battery, the tires (make sure that they are inflated properly and that they have sufficient tread to drive in the snow), windshield wipers and winterized washing solution.

Fourth-the exhaust system. Why the big concern for the exhaust system. If you get stuck in traffic for several hours (Seahawk Monday) and you have exhaust leaking problems, the fumes will be going into the passenger compartment through every little crack and hole in your vehicle. The result could be “Carbon Monoxide Poisoning”. If you get drowsy while driving with the heater on, stop and get out of the car and breath fresh air.

Fifth-heating system. Make sure that there are no leaks in the system. Make sure your fluid levels are correct and that your antifreeze is sufficient for the weather you are driving in.

Sixth-make sure that you, the driver, are ready to travel. Know your route and be prepared!

Seventh-in the passenger compartment have warm clothing or blankets, food, water, first aid kit, flashlight, battery powered radio, a whistle should you need to get someone’s attention, things to help you survive should you go into a ditch.

Eighth-in the trunk have tire chains, ice scraper, bag of abrasive (sand, kitty litter or salt), booster cables, snow shovel, warning devices (Flares and Triangles) Traction mats and maybe a couple of additional flashlights and some additional clothing and blankets.

I could go on and on but lets end with skids. A skid occurs when you apply the brakes so hard that one or more wheels lock, or if you press hard on the accelerator and spin the drive wheels. Skids also occur when you are traveling too fast on a curve and encounter a slippery surface. Skids fall into three groups: Rear-wheel skids, front wheel skids and four wheel skids. Regardless of the type of skid you encounter, to regain control of your vehicle DO NOT PANIC!

Take your foot off the brake!!! Ease off the accelerator!! Look and steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go. Counter-steer to get control of the vehicle and get it going in the direction you want. Be gentle on the steering wheel and the when the vehicle is going in the desired direction, listen to your engine as you apply the gas to make sure that the tires are not spinning faster than you are applying the gas.

Bottom line, whether on the job or driving your family to the grocery store.....drive to arrive. Remember...you can be the greatest driver in the world.....but if you are not paying attention the worst driver in the world could find you!!!! Your profession is Law Enforcement...your JOB is to go home at the end of your shift.



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of January!

25 Years of Service

Sergeant Bernie Kuerschner, East Precinct
Sergeant Steve Martin, CIS

20 Years of Service

Sergeant Eric Barden, Narcotics
Sergeant Ross Bartley, Training
Sergeant Mark Hazard, West Precinct
Sergeant Francklyn Jones, North Precinct
Sergeant Jim Scott, West Precinct
Detective Bob Adams, Crime Analysis
Detective Malinda Wilson, ICAC
Officer Felton Miles, East Precinct
Officer Bob Besaw, SPOC

15 Years of Service

Sergeant Angie Gordon, North Precinct
Officer Frank Osinski, Southwest Precinct
Officer Shelton Robinson, East Precinct
Officer Travis Testerman, North Precinct

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Officer Brian Hope, West Precinct
Officer Bryan Kennedy, North Precinct





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Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officer of the Month for January 2007 is Detective Tim DeVore of the Andress Task Force. Officer Chad McLaughlin nominated Detective DeVore for his work on the Andress Task Force, specifically the work on the case of Quentin Ervin, the convicted murderer of Detective Antonio Terry

The Andress Task Force was created to prepare for the re-trials of several convicted murderers after the Washington Supreme Court rendered its decision in 2004 regarding one particular type of felony murder. The *Andress* decision holds that an individual cannot be convicted of felony murder if the crime the individual was committing when the killing occurred was felony assault.

In Late November the Washington State Supreme Court ruled on the King County Prosecutor's appeal of a Superior Court decision made last year. King County Superior Court had ruled that the Prosecutor could not charge Defendant Quentin Ervin with Aggravated First Degree Murder in the 1994 death of Detective Antonio Terry. The Prosecutor's Office appealed and argued the case before the Supreme Court two months ago.

The State Supreme Court has REVERSED the Superior Court. In a unanimous decision the Supreme Court ruled that Quentin Ervin **can** be charged with Aggravated First Degree Murder. This is a major win for the Andress Task Force and King County Prosecutor. Special recognition needs to go to Detective Tim DeVore who has handled this case since the Task Force was assembled, to DPA Andrea Vitalich, who presented the arguments to the Supreme Court, and DPA Scott O'Toole, who is the case Prosecutor.

In anticipation of charges, possible plea negotiations and a pending trial next year, Task Force detectives will focus their work on this case for the next few months.

This decision puts an exclamation point on recent Appeals Court rulings and should place a damper on other defendants who are making Address based appeals.

Thank you Tim for your hard work on this case and your efforts to punish this murderer and bring comfort to the Terry family and the entire Department.

Chaplain Oas will be in the SPOG office
the *last Wednesday of every month in the afternoon..*
Feel free to come and talk with him.

SPD Reserve Unit, Part II

By Reserve Officer Chuck Lenfesty, #R076

In October we gave you the who, what, where, when, and why of your Reserve Unit. Now lets talk about what this unit really represents and what it has done as a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.

Your unit is comprised of citizens who believe strongly about the mission of the line officer in the Seattle Police Department. In fact they feel so strongly that they are willing to stand along side of the officer to assist him or her in their mission and do it without pay. (Kind of sounds like the antichrist to OPA).

Back in 1991 the Unit took control of their own bank account and became a 501 (c) 3 tax-deductible charitable organization so that they could help the Seattle Police Family

with donations. Monies came from working the gift show twice a year down at the convention center and donating their off duty pay to the Unit. Two years ago that venue was taken away from the Reserve Unit. Donations of approximately \$10,000.00 have been given since 1991. Monies went to such organizations as Seattle Police Explorers, SPD Guild, Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Rev. John Oas and his ministries, Mike Kearns Children Fund, Ken Saucier Memorial Fund, Jackson V. Lone Fund and even the Seattle Firefighters Fund (in the wake of the Pang warehouse fire), the Bacon Bowl Association and Operation Support our Troops (OSOT).

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2006 SPOG Legal Recap

MEMBER GRIEVANCES	Description of Alleged Violation	Status
05-0013 <i>Change in Department overtime practices</i>	Overtime/3-hour minimum issue. Officers are being called “in off-duty” as they are still on their furlough day, thus resulting in 3 hours of overtime pay.	Pending in arbitration; TBD at hearing in 12/06
05-0017 <i>Removal from promotional list</i> 06-0004 <i>Member not promoted</i>	Member was removed from current promotional list. Despite an arbitrator’s ruling that the City had violated the 180-day provision of the CBA related to an investigation and therefore no discipline should be incurred in relation to this matter, the Department still removed the member from the promotional list.	Pending in arbitration; TBD at hearing in 2/07
06-0001 <i>Furlough policy and staffing special events</i>	Per the CBA, the Department is required to follow Section 5.2 for all special events that are scheduled or "anticipated." Members were called in to work on their furloughs. The Department waited until six days before the event to solicit volunteers.	Step 3 grievance denied; SPOG withdrew
06-0002 <i>IIS timeline issues</i>	Member notifications violated the five-day notification provision in the CBA.	Settled at Step 3
06-0003 <i>Violation of Police Officers’ Bill of Rights</i>	Member was not allowed a SPOG representative to be present when member was relieved of duty and/or reassigned.	Step 3 grievance denied; SPOG withdrew
06-0005 <i>Off-duty employment issue</i>	IIS investigation procedures and practices.	Pending in arbitration
06-0006 <i>IIS procedures</i>	Member received written reprimand for off-duty conduct. Department failed to prove just cause for discipline. Grievance withdrawn upon member’s request. Violation of Disciplinary, Complaint Hearing, and Internal Investigation Procedures; Police Officers’ Bill of Rights.	Step 3 grievance denied; SPOG withdrew
06-0007 <i>Involuntary transfer</i>	Member was involuntarily transferred from unit citing that “movement was good.” Violations include directly bargaining with a member; right of an employee to discuss the basis of the transfer; arbitrarily transferring a member because of age.	Pending in arbitration; TBD
06-0008 <i>Locker search</i>	Illegal search of a member’s locker.	Step 2; TBD
06-0009 <i>Department overtime</i>	The Department did not provide members with at least 72 hours advance notification of an event cancellation/downsizing, thus owing them for three days in which overtime was incurred.	Step 2; settled
06-0010 <i>IIS policies and procedures</i>	Broadening the scope and nature of an IIS investigation through questioning during the interview of the named member.	Step 2; pending
06-0011 <i>IIS procedures</i>	The Department failed to notify a member that a closed OPA investigation found “not sustained” was released to a defense attorney involved in a separate criminal case. The file should have not have been released.	Step 2; pending
06-0012 <i>Disciplinary Transfer</i>	Member’s rights were violated by not being notified of an internal investigation within 5 days while on loan to another institution. Member’s right to a Guild Rep. during the interview was also violated.	Step 2; pending
06-0013 <i>Improper Locker Removal</i>	Member transferred from precinct. Post-transfer, their locker was improperly emptied and left in an open area. The member was not notified by the Department that the locker contents were being removed .	Step 2; pending
UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES (ULP)		
1) Officer shooting investigation by outside agency	Body of work issue.	PERC hearing pending; TBD
2) Vice hour schedule change	Department did not bargain a schedule change for unit.	PERC hearing pending; TBD
3) Union subpoena	The City subpoenaed Guild records for a lawsuit brought by a SPOG member.	PERC hearing pending; TBD
4) OPA Review Board	The City enacted legislation without regard of the CBA and without bargaining directly with the Guild.	PERC hearing pending; TBD
5) OPA Review Board	OPA Review board member has discussed open investigations on the public record through media outlets.	Pending in arbitration; TBD
6) Commander engaging in union intimidation	A commander confronted a SPOG board member in front of union members.	PERC arbitration ruled in favor of City
7) Promotional Process	The Department violated a lawsuit settlement over the promotional process and retaliated against a SPOG member for exercising their contractual rights.	PERC hearing held; ruling is pending
8) Standards and Duties Manual Section	The Department issued a new manual section without bargaining directly with the Guild.	Settled before PERC hearing.
9) Off-duty employment	The Department issued a new manual section on off-duty employment without bargaining directly with the Guild.	Settled before PERC hearing.

System of a Clown

By Rick Anderson

Originally printed in the *Seattle Weekly* on December 14, 2006 (Reprinted with Author's Permission)

In judicial-system time, like dog years, a decade can mean a year, a year can mean a month. The irony of a long criminal sentence is that it is often quite short, results in early prisoner release, and leads to more lawbreaking—a state study shows 50 percent of Washington felons commit new crimes after being sprung. Seattle-area law-enforcement officers, often encountering familiar faces at crime scenes, are intensely aware of the revolving prison door. “You’re dealing with the same 5 percent of the population over and over,” says Sgt. Rich O’Neill, head of the Seattle Police Officers Guild. “It’s an outrage.”

It’s also sometimes fatal. Since August, three Seattle and King County officers have died at the hands of convicted felons who were out on parole—two of them behind the wheels of speeding cars, the third using a gun. The most recent victim, King County Sheriff’s Deputy Steve Cox, 46, was buried on Friday. His alleged shooter was a drug-addicted gang-banger with eight felony drug and gun violations on his record. He’d finished a 33-month sentence in August and was on community release. Though he violated the terms, he had not been returned to custody.

While Cox’s story has angered the public, it pales next to what may be the greatest outrage of all, the case of a professional Seattle criminal named Wilford Armstead, 49, who might be a poster boy for the flaws in the state’s court, prison, and parole systems. A lanky, graying, and violent break-in artist, Armstead has racked up more than two dozen felonies in his three adult decades. Yet the system allowed him to still be out creating new crimes scenes this year.

His freedom was ended on Friday when he was sentenced to 50 years in prison for trying to kill a cop—again. Armstead, an admitted drug and heroin addict, didn’t kill the officer he was aiming at. But he tried, just as he tried repeatedly to kill other officers from 1978 through 2006 as he stretched his record to 26 felonies, according to lengthy King County Superior Court filings.

Armstead used potentially lethal force, including several high-speed police chases, to avoid arrest on six different occasions in his startling criminal crusade. His most recent victim, Renton police officer Larry Strauss, 49, is currently unable to return to duty, and cannot remember Armstead shooting him in the neck in early January. Strauss, who was also wounded in action 16 years ago, is the only living state cop to endure two potentially fatal shootings. He’s not giving interviews, according to Renton PD spokesperson Penny Bartley, though he issued a statement after Armstead’s October conviction saying, “The verdict will keep Wilford

Armstead off the streets so he cannot victimize others.”

But that’s likely been said before. King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng’s office figures Armstead has been out of custody for only nine of the 31 years since he turned 18. “Stated another way,” prosecutors say in court papers, “he has spent over two thirds of his adult life in prison, because of his repeated decisions to violate the law.”

But there were also repeated decisions to give Armstead a break. His felony record, not counting the recent attempted murder conviction, includes seven burglaries and a long list of drug, escape, theft, and gun-possession violations since 1975. In one three-week period in 1996, he stole or attempted to steal five ATM machines from stores using a U-Haul truck. He also frequently committed one crime while awaiting trial on another.

To a hurried judge, prosecutor, or parole officer who doesn’t look beyond the one-line entries of past violations—break-ins, car thefts, stolen property—his record reflects a mostly nonviolent history. Most of his offenses were also committed before 1993, when the state passed its three-strikes law that focuses on serious crimes such as murder, rape, and sex abuse. For those reasons, Armstead never faced the mandatory life-in-prison charge.

But violence is an undercurrent in many of Armstead’s criminal acts, the deeper record shows, especially against cops. He wrestled away an officer’s shotgun and refused to surrender after burglarizing a store. He twice fired a gun at a citizen who was trying to stop Armstead from stealing his car. Fleeing nonviolent crimes, he led police on two high-speed chases, in one of them smashing into another car in an intersection. He similarly wrestled for control of an officer’s gun while being taken into custody and, in another instance, assaulted an officer and tried to take off with a patrol car.

“When they’re out on release,” says guild leader O’Neill, “some of them will do whatever it takes to avoid going back.”

County prosecutors, though, plea bargained with Armstead several times, charging him with the nonviolent underlying crime, such as burglary, and using any violent acts that occurred while escaping or resisting arrests as aggravating factors to increase his sentence. As his record lengthened, prosecutors sought and got more time, but his history of convictions, superficially, remained comparatively tame.

And though more time was being handed out, it wasn’t necessarily being served. A compilation of

Armstead’s sentencing record shows he has been given more than 100 years of prison time in his 31 years as an adult. Of that, he’s served about 22 years. Court records indicate some judges favorably saw him mostly as a drug addict rather than a violent criminal, and he was given sentences that would run concurrently with other prison terms, rather than one after another, turning long-sounding sentences into the reality of much shorter stints.

For example, in that busy year of 1996, Armstead was arrested four times and charged with a total of nine felonies (including burglary, assault, and theft), eight of them committed while he was facing trial for the first. In one of the incidents, according to court records, a gun was found under his car seat. Armstead at that point “became upset; he resisted being handcuffed and he dragged the officers to the driver’s door of the officer’s patrol car. With [a second suspect] handcuffed in the back seat, the defendant attempted to place the patrol car in gear and drive off.” When the cop pulled him back, he head-butted the officer, then was subdued.

For that assault and eight other felonies, he was sentenced, in aggregate, to 44 years in prison. But because the terms were for the most part made concurrent rather than consecutive, he got what amounted to 15 years—a stiff sentence, except he was paroled in 2003, after only six and a half.

In the view of the guild’s O’Neill, systemic failures are both “tragic and epidemic.” The answer “can’t be found in any one piece of the public safety puzzle,” he says, “but you should start in the prosecutors’ and judges’ offices, then the parole board and probation officers.”

Corrections officials explain they have to balance public safety against overcrowded prisons, which sometimes requires early release for presumably nonviolent offenders. “Sure,” says O’Neill, “a judgment call has to be made on who’s violent and who isn’t. But we’ve got four tragic examples here of how those decisions were wrong. The public is always demanding police accountability. How about some for the rest of the system?”

Gov. Christine Gregoire has ordered the Department of Corrections to

review its policies in the wake of the three police deaths. Armstead seems ripe for review as well. The record shows that after he left prison the last time, he violated parole in 2004 and 2005, getting arrested for more acts of burglary, drugs, eluding, and hit and run. He was not charged with those crimes, and it’s unclear how those allegations were handled by the parole system.

“We prosecute cases aggressively here, and we obtain the best sentences we can,” says Dan Donahoe, spokesperson for the King County Prosecutor’s Office. “The Legislature sets up specific ranges, and we have to follow them.” Armstead might have been prosecuted earlier under three strikes, “but his crimes just didn’t qualify,” Donahoe adds. He says Maleng’s office does not plan any review in response to the police deaths.

On Jan. 8, 2006, still a free man after all these years, Armstead tried one last time to elude an officer, Renton policeman Strauss, who was investigating a suspicious van. There was a struggle, then a shot from Armstead’s gun. As Strauss thought he lay dying, he returned fire as Armstead fled. Strauss was able to give a description of the shooter, and Armstead was later arrested, with two bullet holes in his jacket.

As for Donald F. Venefra, the man who fired a round into Strauss’ life-saving protective vest during the Renton officer’s first brush with death in 1991, he was charged with attempted murder and sentenced to 10 years. He was released in less than seven.

Since then, Venefra’s been tried on two new, separate charges of child rape and molestation, and found not guilty. He couldn’t be reached for comment, but lists a Maple Valley address. That’s a short drive from South Grady Way in Renton, where he shot Strauss—which is just a few blocks from the Renton Airport, where Armstead shot Strauss.

If Strauss returns to duty, a beat in another neighborhood seems in order.

randerson@seattleweekly.com

Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 31st

at 2000 hours

Complimentary Dinner

All Members Welcome

The Struggle to Juggle

By Officer Christie-Lynne Bonner,
Peer Support Coordinator

Study for the promotional exam or paint the house? Work the off-duty job for the Disneyland vacation fund or attend your child’s game? Military reserve responsibilities? Family time? Shift work. Finishing your degree? Overtime? Work out time?

How do you fit it all in? Or what do you give up? Do you ever feel like a juggler trying to keep all those tumbling pins up in the air?

A career in law enforcement presents choices that are not always easy to make. Finding the balance between doing it all and maintaining your sanity can sometimes feel nearly impossible. If you have struggled with these issues, spend March 14, 2007 at the NOAA facility, attending a free one-day seminar designed to provide information and ideas for managing the competing demands of career and personal responsibilities.

This year’s seminar, “The Struggle to Juggle”, features keynote speaker, Dr. Kevin Gilmartin. After 20 years in law enforcement in Arizona, Dr. Gilmartin authored “Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement”, which some of you read as part of your BLEA course work. He will address some of the typical pitfalls of

a career in law enforcement and how to avoid them.

Laurie Sorensen, Macy’s Vice President of Loss Prevention and the Neighborhood Events Chair for the Police Foundation, will share lessons learned about balancing personal life with a demanding career.

Two photographic displays will also be available for viewing in March 2007 in the Seattle Police Headquarters Building. One will cover the 50-year history of SPD Parking Enforcement and the other will spotlight some of our personnel who not only serve community members here in Seattle, but have been activated as reservists with our armed forces since 9-11. You won’t want to miss either display.

This seminar is sponsored by the Seattle Police Department, the Seattle Police Foundation, and NOAA. It will be from 0730-1600 hrs. and is free, but seating is limited and by registration only. Other agencies will also be invited to attend, so register early. To reserve your spot, e-mail Edie Burke at edie.burke@seattle.gov. Additional information will be posted in the Department Notices.

Life is Not a Game

By Officer Justin Williams, North Precinct

My brothers and sisters are getting killed for only doing their jobs. Hearing of Deputy Cox’s death has me so pissed off and is what tripped this train of thought. I hate it when upper management, the OPA, the media, and anyone else who sit back and judge us for doing our job. We have to do our jobs by the longest list of rules and regulations. When the suspects we deal with don’t have any rules, it is the ”rules” that we are under which gets us killed. When to search- when not to, when to put cuffs on -when not to, what I can ask them, what I can’t ask them, and on and on and on.

Hello, evidently we don’t have enough officers on the street to even maintain control of a scene during an investigation!

What really has me bent is how someone always comes out publicly, after the fact and talk about how good the suspect was. In this case the suspect flat out executed a police officer.

The moviemakers and video game manufacturers need to stop creating and selling violent video games and movies. Stealing cars and having a shoot out with police is not a video game for kids or adults. Grand Theft Auto is the worst game put out for Playstation or XBOX. The very society we live in makes these brainless people commit these acts along with a long list of other issues, which we all know what they are. If a parent gives their child or allows their child to play a video game with such violence they are saying it is okay to practice killing someone and disregard any one else’s life. Where the hell else are they learning this? When they do commit an act on another person as a result of what they learned, they have an attorney step up and say they didn’t commit the act and plead not guilty for various reasons; i.e. Mary Jane Rivas, the murderer of Officer Joselito Barber. But, playing a video game or watching a TV show with such content is okay and its okay

to go out and steal cars and get in a chase with police or have total disregard for their actions, just like the two maggots that killed Officer Beth Nowak and Officer Barber.

There are tons of violent movies and TV shows out there, such as Reservoir Dogs starring Quentin Tarantino; were they kidnap and torture a cop then murder him. This is wrong!!! This is not entertainment; this is out of control! There is no line as to what they won’t show on TV. They already show domestic violence, women being raped and people being murdered; people are too used to seeing this crap.

Its my opinion that the death of Officers Cox, Novak, Barber and the hundreds of officers each year who are just doing their job is a result of or influenced by mass media, whether in the form of video games, movies or books. It seems that people as a whole can’t think for themselves and they are too influenced from outside sources. Making the killing of others entertainment or a game makes me so pissed at our country, society, community and political groups just to name a few, for letting this be. Nobody takes responsibility for their actions! Money is the only thing which people are worried about! They sue us for doing our job. They sue the firearms industry or any government agency they might be able to shake down money from all because of their pathetic lack of judgment to begin with.

This is just a small part of what I don’t like having to deal with in my job and my life. I don’t have the answers to these problems, but the fact is we deal with it everyday, in our jobs, our lives, and our family’s lives. And these problems are deep and have been going on for years. It pains me to put on a black band on my badge. These situations make me question if I am doing the right job. This just hits a nerve with me. Please be safe out there on the street.

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All *Guardian* submissions are due
by January 15, 2007
to spogguardian@yahoo.com

Numbers

By Officer Mike Serverance, Board Position 5

I recently obtained copies of roll call sheets from all five precincts and counted the bodies. The numbers do not include Assistant Chiefs, Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Station Crew, On Loan, Military Leave, or Extended Sick. They do not include 5 part time officers, 36 assigned to beats, or 18 pro-active bicycle officers, or student officers. There are 430 full time uniformed patrol officers assigned to marked patrol cars and being routinely dispatched to 911 calls. In 1971 there were approximately 540 full time uniformed patrol officers assigned to marked patrol cars and being routinely dispatched to 911 calls. That means there are about 20% fewer uniformed officers on the street being routinely dispatched to 911 calls than there were in 1971, and the workload has increased 80% since 1971.

While the number of uniformed officers on the street has decreased dramatically since 1971, something else has increased even more dramatically...the SPD Manual. The Manual, in its current format, took effect in late 1996. It now has 539 full size pages, 177 Sections, and only God knows how many sub-sections. The previous Manual had 265 smaller pages, 24 Sections, and a paltry 337 sub-sections. I look back now at pre-1996, and I marvel at how we managed to do the job with such an itty bitty Manual to guide us.

So, while the number of uniformed officers on the street who are being routinely dispatched to 911 calls has dropped about 20% since 1971, the workload has increased 80%, and the SPD Manual has grown by more than 100%.

I learned long ago that I will never learn all that this job has to teach, but I have been fortunate enough over the years to know some officers who have

learned it all and do know it all. And even though I never let myself think that “I have seen it all”, occasionally something happens which takes me by complete surprise because it is so brainless. Such is the case with the actions taken by some very high-ranking officer(s) against one of our veteran members who is soon to retire. Those actions were so contemptible as to offend my very soul. Those actions could never be justified using any tenets of sane and skillful leadership. I will call them what they are...pure evil vindictiveness. Over a career that has almost spanned four decades, I have sometimes seen officers who could never make it as a cop, but had a gift for memorizing. That gift, combined with our promotional system, moved them up the ladder of rank, sometimes to very high rank. As their rank got higher and higher, they treated the real cops with more and more contempt. Why? Are real cops such a painful reminder of something they could never be? Is this the type of leadership which deserves respect? Does this type of leadership motivate you? It certainly moves me. If you want to see a person’s true character, give them power. Sometimes people with power do not use it because they should. They use it because they can.

Here are the final staffing figures for the 2005-2006 biennium. The department hired 121 new officers. 101 officers left the department. The net change for 24 months was +20 or .833 new officers per month. If the new bodies were evenly distributed to patrol shifts at all five precincts, each of the 15 shifts would have gotten 1.33 new bodies. That is certainly better than nothing, but it is not anything to brag about, and the overall effect on our operations is negligible.

Be safe out there.

Out of the Blue!

By Norm Gow, SPD Retired

I have a confession to make. I don’t miss the job.

By now, a lot of you (especially those on the sergeant’ list) know that after three decades, I quietly slipped out the back door, closed it tightly, then glued, screwed, and nailed it shut for good on August 27. Now while I’ve never professed to have been the second coming of Sergeant Fred “What, me pay?” Ibuki (Fred, I have the utmost respect for you buddy!), I think I did a fairly decent job wherever I’ve been assigned. Sure, some of my methods have been unorthodox at best, but hey, I got the jobs done, never went out of my way to ruffle brass feathers, rock the bosses boats, or impersonate an administrative hemorrhoid. I even achieved a personal goal of becoming the senior sergeant. So what convinced me to leave ahead of schedule?

Well first of all, I was quickly losing faith in my belief that decent folk outnumber the lost causes. Not an ideal outlook for a cop. But one only has to work crowd control at a Seahawks game to fully comprehend such a harsh condemnation towards mankind’s direction. Simply put, I reached a point where everyone I dealt with was to some degree either a suspect or victim (or in some cases both). Secondly, for years I’ve become increasingly disappointed with what I viewed as questionable hires by a civil service process plagued with its own failed performance and personnel issues. What followed and subsequently beat up on morale included retention of incompetent, dishonest employees, an agonizingly slow and discriminatory appeals process, and a blatantly inconsistent disciplinary policy.

Finally, I foolishly let myself down by allowing certain personal feelings affect my already glum attitude. I found myself increasingly bothered by what I felt were questionable transfers and placement of some personnel who brought questionable credentials into highly sought-after assignments. I got discouraged when I lost out on assignments I knew I was more qualified for. Sound like a sour grapes two-step? I don’t dance. At

one time, I was naive enough to think multiple candidates received equal consideration. Now there’s 30 seconds out of my career. And besides, what was my reward for all the times I heard, “nice job?” How about being transferred in and out of patrol on four separate occasions? To all watches, each move turning my life and the lives of my family upside down. I mean does anyone out there know if that has ever happened to another supervisor before, or anyone for that matter? I admit it got downright difficult just to drag my tired, aching body out of bed at 1:30am, lane-straddle the 25 miles to West Seattle, then hold a roll call for three officers (four when we were fat) often as the only shift supervisor. I once got so desperate to get regular hours; I volunteered to return to OPA even though I had already worked there for 3 years. I know some of you young chevron-toting bucks (and “buckettes”) have told me you see this going-back-to-patrol thing as a sign of “disrespect.” Well, you’d better wake up and smell the locker room because you’d have to have Paris Hilton’s brainwaves to believe such deep doo-doo. Sadly, there are a lot of people who will never ever see any significant time inside a Ford. Instead, these people somehow get banished to a life of 8 to 4, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays of course). Sorry but I just don’t have the energy to expend thinking about it anymore.

Folks, I loved being a cop. I loved putting the uniform on and making bad guys cry. I cherish the many people who became friends and those moments when Joe Citizen dropped a nice simple thank you” on me. Strangely though, I’m able to step into retirement with absolutely no feeling of emptiness, no void in my life. To me, separation-anxiety is just a fancy way of saying, “get a life.” You see; I just don’t miss the job.

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Retired News

By Mike Germann

Welcome to the NEW YEAR!

New Retirements

There are two new LEOFF I retirements to publish this month; both from Harbor.

Gordon L. Van Rooy, #3065, Seattle Police Sergeant-Diver, last assigned to the Harbor Unit, will be retired for service on January 12, 2007. He has 37 years and 10 months of seniority, including his “police cadet” time. Gordy Van Rooy was first hired by the Seattle Police Department as a “Cadet” on March 18, 1969. He was appointed a sworn “Patrolman” on January 2, 1970. Gordy’s police career was in uniformed patrol at all four precincts, newly promoted to Sergeant in January 1985, to Detective Sergeant in Auto Theft in 1990 and finally to Harbor in 1998, from where he retired as Sergeant/Diver. He and his wife of 27 years, Jill, plan to remain in this area. Gordy has an offer to work security at the United States Courthouse. Best of luck, Gordy.

James R. Muir, #3567, Seattle Police Officer – Diver, last assigned to the Harbor Unit, will be retired for service on January 12, 2007. He has 35 years of seniority, the majority served in Harbor. Jim Muir was appointed a “Patrolman” on April 21, 1971. He served in Patrol until 1988 and then was assigned to Harbor where he served until his retirement in early 2007. Jim Muir is undoubtedly one of the best marine mechanic’s in the boating industry today. There’s almost nothing he doesn’t know about boats and their power plants. Jim and his wife of 34 years, Colleen, plan to remain in Seattle. He may take a position in Seattle’s boating community, if the opportunity presents itself. Jim says he’ll always be proud of his Seattle Police service and grateful for the many wonderful people he’s worked with and around. Enjoy your retirement, Jim.

Police Pension Board Increases Some Benefits

Your Seattle Police Pension Board met on December 12th, for their final meeting of 2006.

Executive Secretary Mike Germann, Assistant Executive Secretary (Medical) John Sullivan and Premera Blue Cross recommended a slate of LEOFF I medical/dental benefit increases and plan revisions to become effective on January 1, 2007

- Dental reimbursement in 2007 is increased to a maximum out-of-pocket reimbursement of \$750/calendar year from the 2006 maximum of \$500.
- Chemical dependency treatment is set at \$13,500 per 24 month period. Coverage is expanded to any state licensed facility. There is a lifetime limit of two courses of treatment.
- Chiropractic manipulations are increased from a limit of 20 visits per calendar year to 24.
- Skilled nursing facilities no longer need to be approved by the Police Pension Board. It’s your choice as long as the facility is licensed and accredited.

• Vision hardware is increased to \$700 per calendar year, provided there is a change of prescription. OPTIC SERVICE FORMS ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY AS OF JANUARY 1, 2007. They’re your glasses; you decide how much to spend on frames, lenses and any special features, UP TO A LIMIT OF \$700/CALENDAR YEAR. Again, there must be a prescription change, which is usually no problem. Use your Premera Blue Cross card if you’re under age 65 and covered. Otherwise, pay the bill and the Pension Fund will reimburse you. If you have special vision needs, call the Seattle Police Pension Office. John @ (206) 386-1287 – for assistance.

Call the Seattle Police Pension Office is you have any questions about your LEOFF I medical/dental benefits.

January 2007 Retirees’ Birthdays

Note: In earlier Guardian publications, only the names of persons celebrating their birthdays in a particular month were printed. As space for Retired News is limited, we are returning to that policy. If you need to know the exact birth date of a retired member, please contact the Pension Office, 206-3861286.

Douglas “Doug” Aardahl, Kenneth G. “Ken” Baggen, Iris L. Bailey (Bertrum T. “Bert”), Barbara J. Bakke (Theodore C. “Ted”), Robert T. “Bob” Ballantyne, Jerauld F. “Jerry” Bickel, Orville Riley “Riley” Brice, Robert R. “Bob” Buston, Tommy C. Caldwell, Maxine A. Cook (W. Webster “Web”), John L. “Johnny” Dack, Earl M. “Sonny” Davis, James C. “Jim” Deschane, James P. “Jim” Devine, Beverly J. Doman (Gene), Keith T. Engstrom, Alfred E. “Al” Fenkner, Calvin James “Jim” Fisk, Marilyn M. Garner (Robert L. “Bob”), Paul J. Garvin, Glenn E. Gilbert, Glen L. Gilberts, Linda M. Mortenson Gow, Gary I. Greenbaum, W. Dale Halvorson, Donald R. “Don” Harris, Laurence L. “Larry” Hart, Stephen A. “Steve” Heard, Richard C. “Dick” Herdeck, Joseph E. “Joe” Higgins, Percie L. Hill, Ramon A. “Ray” Holm, Betty J. Honz (Robert “Bob”), Warren R. Hume, Richard R. “Dick” Hybak, Billy F. “Bill” Johnson (Joyce), Larry D. Johnson, Tyrone B. “Ty” Kane, Gary W. Kolsky, John L. Kristof, Gary C. Krueger, Margaret A. Lindell (Gary R.), Warren P. “Skip” Lisenby, Donald P. “Don” Marquart, Larry G. Martin, Ronald R. “Ron” Mcaffee, Charles E. “Chuck” McClure, Keith E. Mcgehe, William B. “Bill” Mckenna, Darline Miller (Claude A.), Robert L. “Bob” Miller, Colleen F. Moe (Duane C.), Patrick J. “Pat” Moriarty, Thomas H. “Tom” Murphy, Kenneth J. “Kenny” Nelson, John D. Nichols, William J. “Bill” Noon, Mary L. Orewiler (John G. “Jack”), Margaret L. Oslin, Patricia I. Perry (Robert “Bob”), James B. “J.B.” Phillips, Charles E. “Chuck” Pillon, Boyd E. Prahmus, Milton C. “Milt” Rasmussen, Jr, Jack W. Ray, Stephen W. “Steve” Raymond, Fayettea M. “Faye” Ready (Melvin E. “Mel”), Gail S. Richardson, Steven J. “Steve” Rix, Dennis N. Ronning, Debra T. Sabourin (Mark J.), Barry G. Schlecht, Harry L. Schneider, Michael G. “Mike” Shoddy, Arlene M. Smith, Jerry E. Smith, George H. Stablein, Marcus L. “Mark” Taylor, Gerald G. “Jerry” Teller, Charles R. “Chuck” Tripp, Francais X. Trudeau, Larry G. Umipig, Jack L. Wallock, Gloria A. Wilson (Earl), Thomas R. “Tom” Witkowski, Donald “Don” Yeowell, James A. “Jim” Zack



Seattle Police Officers Guild Night with the Sonics



SONICS

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Saturday, March 17th
@ 7:00 pm



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QUESTIONS: Call the Guild office at 206-767-1150

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

			# of Tickets	Upper-level sideline seating rows 1-9	Total Price
Sat.	3/17/07 7:00pm	Golden State Warriors		X \$35 (reg. \$40)	\$

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Pay No Service Charge. Orders must be received 14 days prior to the date of the game. Orders received more than 14 days prior to the game date will be mailed to the above address; less than 14 days will be left at Will Call. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. No exchanges or refunds. Tickets and premium items are subject to availability. If there are no tickets remaining, the Sonics reserve the right to refund payment in full

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Last Ring

Retired Seattle “Police Woman” Marilyn Maxine Markham, #2294, also known by the last names of “Graybill” and Richardson” during her police career, passed away on November 14, 2006 at Tacoma’s Saint Joseph’s Hospital following a long deterioration of her health. She was 74 years of age upon her death.

Marilyn was born on February 25, 1932. She was appointed a “Seattle Police Woman” on August 27, 1962 and assigned to the then “Women’s Bureau.” That bureau was all police women, including the sergeant and the captain. They dealt with the investigation, and in some cases adjudication, of a wide range of criminal and injurious activities usually involving children. They also performed other details such as

teaching self defense and personal safety.

Marilyn retired from police service on May 3, 1972 because of injuries incurred in the line-of-duty. She tried to return to active service with the Seattle Police Department but the Police Pension Board ruled against her return, fearing for her safety.

Surviving is a nephew.

Graveside services were held on December 7, 2006 at Tahoma National Cemetery.

Retired Seattle Detective Sergeant Gene Doman, #2095, passed away on November 18, 2006.

He was 69 years of age. Gene is survived by his wife of 47 years, Beverly, three children, his mother and a sister and a brother in addition to numerous cousins.

Gene Doman was hired as a police officer on December 28, 1960 and served in many areas of the Seattle Police Department, most noticeably in the Special Patrol Squad (Tac. Squad) and as a longtime Sergeant in the Vice Squad. He thoroughly enjoyed his entire police service and retired for service on September , 1989 after a career of 29 years.

A memorial service for Gene was held on November 25, 2006, at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Catholic Church. A reception followed.

Vivian C. Dotson, age 90, passed away in Winlock, Washington on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. Vivian was the widow (lawful beneficiary) of deceased retired Seattle Police “Patrolman” Charles E. M. Dotson,

serial # 637. “Patrolman Dotson served with the Seattle Police Department from March 27, 1944 until his retirement on October 1, 1969 with 25 years of service. He passed away on February 22, 2000. Patrolman Dotson’s record indicates he also served as a “military guard” in the Philippines for 243 days during 1947 for war crimes trials.

Active duty Detective Bob Little, whose wife, Pam Little, passed away at home on November 14, 2006 after a long illness. Bob, you’ve done a tremendous job taking care of your family.

The men and women of the King County Sheriff’s Office and the citizens of White Center who lost a formidable asset, Deputy King County Sheriff Steve Cox, age 46, and a nine year veteran of the Sheriff’s, who was killed in the line-of-duty on December 2, 2006.

MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE.

Do you have an upcoming IIS Interview?
Contact SPOG now to schedule a rep!
206-767-1150 or online at www.seattlepoliceguild.org

The Ol’ Blue Clan Reunion

The 2007 Ol’ Blue Clan Ruenion will be held on Saturday March 17th at the Turf Paradise Horse Racing Track in Phoenix, AZ. Doors open at noon. The cost is \$40.00 per person. Please include with your check the names of all persons in your party.

The Ol’ Blue Clan Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 18th, at Hillcrest Golf Course in Sun City West, followed by a post party at Pat Munter’s. First tee time is at 11:00a.m. The cost is \$60.00/person. Please include your handicap or average golf score with your check. Info regarding driving directions, rules, teams and post party will be given at the reunion on Saturday.

To reserve your spot for the reunion and/or golf tournament, send your check (made out to Pat Munter) to:

Pat Munter
2820 NE 117th St
Seattle, WA 98125

If you have questions, call Pat Munter at (206) 367-7709

The Guild actively urges its members to write articles for publication in *TheGuardian*. The newspaper cannot survive without membership contributions.

All articles submitted for publication will be accepted subject to editorial review and changes. The editor shall retain the decision to publish, not publish, or edit an article. The editor’s decision to publish or not publish an article can be appealed to the editorial board, which shall have final and binding decision making authority over the publication of the article. Articles appearing under an author’s byline do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild.



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Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, B/T West



Rest in peace King County Deputy Sheriff Steve Cox, for you are a hero! After his tragic execution while bravely serving his community, the people who he served stepped up to say he was a Superman! I followed the media coverage of his tragic death, and was glad that those he served offered up a moving tribute to Steve! His honor was absolutely incredible for a law enforcement officer in this region! I pray that this never happens again, but I know it will and that is a tragic thing for all of us in law enforcement to think about.

The killer, Raymond Porter was well known to many Seattle cops. I can't remember if it was 1997 or 1998, but young Raymond was out trying to sling some rock in front of Deano's at 0300 hours. If you all don't know, that is the open-air crack market near 21st Avenue and East Madison Street. Young Raymond ran when the spotlight was shined on him. A foot chase ensued, and the little gang-banger fought when he was caught. Raymond turned into a true thug, with numerous felony convictions. Still the Washington State Department of Corrections still couldn't seem to supervise him. I do not blame the rank and file Community Corrections Officers, but the system is obviously broken. Deputy Cox is the third local law enforcement officer to be killed by a thug under the DOC "supervision" in the past four months That system needs to be radically corrected, starting at the highest levels of the Department of Corrections.

It took a total of three local officers to be killed by a convicted felon under DOC supervision in the span of four months for the Governor to step up and ask for an inquiry into how these people were supervised. Come on Madam Governor, you were the Attorney General for eight years before the questionable King County election system ushered you into the Governor's mansion. Didn't you know the DOC system was broken? I know first hand that the Community Corrections officers work their backsides off, but it seems as though there are not enough of them, or the policies which they operate under are antiquated; out of touch for today's issues surrounding released felons. They need the tools and resources to properly do their jobs.

Why doesn't this state have parole, rather than probation? Why can someone come up hot on a piss test and not be cuffed and stuffed back into prison? Why do we, the continuously repeated phrase by the Governor, "Washingtonians" have any teeth in the law to monitor those released from prison with time left over their heads? The Governor has said in a recent Seattle Times article, "It is impossible to track someone 24-7," but the tragedies point out the need to rehabilitate felons during their prison stays, not merely house them. People with addictions shouldn't be dumped on the streets untreated, she said." Oh really? Raymond Porter was not an addict, unless smoking weed is an excuse. Raymond was a dope slinger and an armed thug! Why was he not properly supervised?

This Governor needs to remember some of her words said in the past. Back in 1992, while I was standing guard as a Boeing Security Officer at the Renton Boeing Plant, Mrs. Gregoire was running for Attorney General. She walked up to me and shook my hand. I asked her if she was pro-death penalty, and she told me she was. She also told me she was about law and order. I guess she has forgotten all of that, or lied to a 6'3" man who was in a uniform. That doesn't surprise me, and the "D" behind her name explains it all. The "D's" are enamored with appeasement and capitulation and do not have the intestinal fortitude to be about law and order! It's all about sitting back and trying to find out why "little Johnny" did it, rather than handing down the proper sentence to punish the crime. Reasonable minded people of this state are fed up, and it is time for change before the thugs are running the asylum at a greater pace than they already do.

Happy New Year to you and your families! Stay safe out there and watch each other's backs! Feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions at spogguardian@yahoo.com. "Don't let evil get the upper hand, but conquer evil by doing good."-Romans 12:21.

Calendar of Events

- New Years Day (SPOG Office Closed)**
Monday, January 1st
- Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office**
Wednesday, January 10th at 1300 hours
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (SPOG Office Closed)**
Monday, January 15th
- Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office**
Wednesday, January 31st at 2000 hours

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